

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 175895

11

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

66612

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: JWOLF

APPROVED BY/ S/S-O: DMACK

----- 073768

R 251758Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175895

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 2821 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BEIRUT AND PARIS
25 JUL 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2821

EXDIS

DEPT PASS TO DOD, DIA & CINCEUR. DOD FOR ISA/NESA;
BEIRUT, PARIS PASS DAO'S

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: ESTC, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN INTEREST IN PURCHASE OF US SENSOR EQUIPMENT AND
FRENCH GUNBOATS (S)

SUMMARY: RETIRED US GENERAL REPORTS THAT SYRIANS ARE INTERESTED
IN PURCHASE OF US MILITARY SENSOR EQUIPMENT. VP OF US FIRM
INFORMS ABASSADOR THAT FRENCH ARE PREPARING TO SELL GUNBOATS
TO SYRIA WITH US GUN MOUNTS FOR WHICH A MC FAVORABLE ADVISORY
OPINION HAS BEEN ISSUED. AMBASSADOR POINTS OUT THAT THIS
PARTICULARLY DELICATE TIME IN US-SYRIAN RELATIONS AND URGES US
REPS TO INSURE THEY ARE ON FIRM GROUND RE MC LICENSES BEFORE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 175895

CARRYING DISCUSSIONS TOO FAR. AMB REQUESTS TO BE INFORMED OF
APPROVALS/
ISAPPROVALS OF MC LICENSES AND FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE
ADVISORY OPINIONS RE US MILITARY EXPORTS TO SYRIA.

1. GENERAL JOHN D. LAVELLE, USAF (RET), NOW WITH MARYLAND FIRM DECISIONS AND DESIGN, AND HIS LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE HAYAN S. ATASSI, BRIEFED AMBASSADOR AND DATT 23 JULY ON STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH SYRIAN CHIEF OF MILITARY ELECTRONICS AND SURVEILLANCE, GENERAL AKKAM, RE SYRIAN INTEREST IN ELECTRONIC SENSOR EQUIPMENT. LAVELLE WAS ON SECOND TRIP WITHIN A WEEK TO SYRIA. HE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT IN HIS OPINION SYRIANS HAD A GENUINE INTEREST IN PURCHASE OF MILITARY SENSORS WHICH ARE ON THE SAME ORDER AS THOSE USED BY US IN SOUTH EAST ASIAN OPERATION "IGLOO WHITE." ACCORDING TO LAVELLE THESE SENSORS ARE NO LONGER CLASSIFIED OR TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE PROBABLY BETTER THAN ANY SIMILAR RUSSIAN EQUIPMENT. DECISIONS AND DESIGN CAN DESIGN VARIOUS ANTI-INTRUSION AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS BASED ON THESE SENSORS TO PROTECT FIXED INSTALLATIONS, MONITOR BORDER AREAS, PROVIDE EARLY WARNING, ETC.

2. LAVELLE REPORTED THAT GENERAL AKKAM INTENDS TO PREPARE "LETTER OF INTEREST" WHICH DECISIONS AND DESIGN WILL USE AS A BASIS FOR REQUESTING ADVISORY OPINION FROM DEPT RE MUNITIONS LICENSE. IF OPINION IS FAVORABLE LAVELLE WILL RETURN TO SYRIA, PROBABLY THIS FALL, TO DISCUSS SYRIAN NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS IN DETAIL AND TO SHOW SAMPLES AND PROVIDE TECH DATA. TO THIS POINT AKKAM HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS HIS REQUIREMENTS, APPARENTLY PREFERRING TO WAIT UNTIL HE HAS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT USG WILL ISSUE EXPORT LICENSE. THEREFORE LAVELLE SAYS HE HAS NO IDEA OF TOTAL VALUE OF PROSPECTIVE DEAL OR WHERE SYRIANS PLAN TO INSTALL SYSTEMS. HOWEVER AKKAM APPARENTLY DID TELL LAVELLE THAT SOUTH LEBANON WAS ONE AREA WHERE SYRIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SYSTEMS IMPLACED.

3. ALSO ACCOMPANYING LAVELLE WAS HIS SON-IN-LAW, WILLIAM J. ENLOE, VP AND DIRECTOR OF EMERSON ELECTRIC, SAINT LOUIS. ENLOE SAID THAT HIS FIRM PRODUCED A VARIETY CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 175895

OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT PRIMARILY FOR EXPORT INCLUDING ELECTRONIC NAVIGATION AND DIRECTION-FINDING SYSTEMS AND HELICOPTER ARMAMENT SYSTEMS. ENLOE SAID THAT EMERSON HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED A FAVORABLE ADVISORY OPINION RE THE SALE OF 30MM NAVAL GUN MOUNTS TO BE INSTALLED ON FRENCH "LE COMBATTANT" (TWO OR THREE CLASS) GUNBOATS TO BE SOLD TO SYRIA. BASED ON THIS OPINION EMERSON NOW PREPARING PRICE QUOTES FOR FOUR, SIX AND EIGHT MOUNTS FOR PRESENTATION TO CMN, CHERBOURG, THE FIRM WHICH BUILDS THE SHIPS. BASED ON NUMBERS OF MOUNTS, ENLOE SAID THAT HE BELIEVES SYRIANS ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASE OF FROM TWO TO FOUR OF THESE SHIPS. HE SAID THESE ARE SIMILAR TO ISRAELI SAAR BOATS BUILT BY SAME MANUFACTURER, WOULD

CARRY EXOCET ANTI-SHIP MISSILES, AND WOULD COST ABOUT 30 MILLION DOLLARS EACH. HE SAID THAT CONTRACTS HAD NOT YET BEEN SIGNED AND CMN PROPOSAL WAS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN FRENCH AND SYRIANS. ENLOE ADDED THAT OTHER THAN THE 30MM MOUNTS HE HAD NO DEALS UNDERWAY FOR SYRIA BUT IN VIEW OF FAVORABLE OPINION ON THE MOUNTS HE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES IN SYRIA FOR HIS FIRM.

4. AMBASSADOR URGED LAVELLE AND ENLOE TO INSURE THEY WERE ON FIRM GROUND RE MUNITIONS LICENSES BEFORE CARRYING DISCUSSIONS OF SALE MC LICENSED EQUIPMENT TO SYRIANS BEYOND THE EXPLORATORY STAGE. AMBASSADOR ALSO URGED ATASSI TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY AND TOLD ALL THREE THAT WE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO HELP AND FACILITATE THEIR SALES EFFORTS AS SOON AS WE CERTAIN THAT DEPT BLEESSING HAD BEEN OBTAINED. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUR SALES OF ARMS AND MILITARY RELATED EQUIPMENT TO SYRIA WAS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SUBJECT. ALL THREE GENTLEMEN SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD STAY IN TOUCH.

5. AS DISCUSSIONS BROKE UP ATASSI, WHO IS APPARENTLY USED AS AGENT BY SYRIAN MILITARY FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, TOLD DATT THAT HE HAD LOST A LARGE CONTRACT A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO FOR PRC 77 TACTICAL RADIOS BECAUSE USG WOULD NOT ISSUE MC LICENSE. HE SAID CONTRACT WENT TO TELEMAT, A WEST GERMAN FIRM WHICH MANUFACTURES A PIRATED VERSION OF THE PRC-77. HE SAID THAT IF MUNITIONS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 175895

LICENSES COULD BE APPROVED FOR SYRIA HE CERTAIN SYRIAN MILITARY WOULD BUY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF US COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

ACTION REQUESTED: AMBASSADOR WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED OF ACTION TAKEN ON DECISION AND DEISGN REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION RE SENSORS WHICH SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO DEPT SHORTLY. IN VIEW OF APPARENT QUICKENING INTEREST IN SALES OF MILITARY RELATED EQUIPMENT TO SYRIA IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD BE KEPT INFORMED RE APPROVALS/DISAPPROVALS OF MC LICENSES AND FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE ADVISORY OPINIONS (E.G9 EMERSON'S GUN MOUNTS).
MURPHY

UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EQUIPMENT, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, MONITORING, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE175895
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S-O: JWOLF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750258-0982
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507106/baaaaqgp.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: ESTC, SY, US
To: CINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006